

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11 and 47 remain pending. Claim 46, which was withdrawn from consideration in the Office Action under reply, is canceled.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted February 29, 2008. The differences between Applicants' invention and the teachings of the Okuyama reference were discussed; and the Examiner explained his interpretation of the claims and of Okuyama. To obviate an unintended interpretation of the claims, Claims 1, 7 and 47, the independent claims, are amended to clarify that which had been implicit. As such, claims 1, 7 and 47 are believed to patentably distinguish from Okuyama, and the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by or even obvious in view of Okuyama is respectfully solicited.

It is respectfully submitted, Okuyama fails to suggest the monitoring and transmission prohibition feature now recited in all of the claims. Rather, Okuyama states that the topology of the IEEE 1394 bus that connects his transmitter to receivers "is automatically set when ... devices are connected or disconnected." The topology of an IEEE 1394 bus relates to the daisy chain of devices that are connected over the bus. Consequently, if one device is disconnected from the IEEE 1394 bus and another device is connected to that bus, the "automatic setting" of the bus topology simply results in a change in the daisy chain connection of those devices. If one device is disconnected and another device is connected, there is no suggestion:

“to control said transmitter to prohibit transmission of a non-copy protected content signal and to change over to enable transmission of a copyright protected processed content signal”

as recited in Applicants’ claim 1 and all the other independent claims.

At best, when a device is disconnected from Okuyama’s IEEE 1394 bus, signals no longer are transmitted to that device over the bus. But the failure to receive signals because a device is disconnected from a transmitter is quite different from prohibiting the transmission of one type of signal (the non-copy protected content signal) and from changing over to enable the transmission of another type of signal (the copyright protected processed content signal). Indeed, if the device is disconnected, it certainly cannot receive the other type of signal, much less a copyright protected signal. Therefore, in view of this significant difference between Applicants’ claimed invention and Okuyama, the withdrawal of the rejections of the claims as being anticipated by Okuyama is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1; and claims 8 and 11 depend from claim 7. Since these dependent claims include all of the recitations recited by the respective independent claim from which they depend, the withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested for those reasons discussed above.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in Okuyama, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of Okuyama providing the basis for a contrary view.

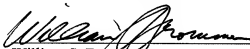
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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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